

REMARKS

The enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on July 2, 2003. At the time the Examiner mailed the Office Action claims 1 – 20 were pending. By way of the present response the Applicant has: 1) amended claims 1 – 6, 8 – 16 and 18 – 20; and, 2) has not canceled or amended any claims. As such claims 1 – 20 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application and the allowance of claims 1 – 20.

The Examiner has rejected each of independent claims 1 and 11 as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by US Patent No. 5,883,621 (hereinafter, "Iwamura"). The Examiner reasoned that Iwamura shows "executing a routing algorithm to determine a path through the network" and cited Col. 8 lines 17-35 and 56-65 of Iwamura for support. The Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's reasoning is in error because: 1) Iwamura only discloses a "network" comprised of an IEEE 1394 serial bus; and, 2) an IEEE 1394 serial bus does not execute a routing algorithm. Therefore Iwamura cannot disclose the execution of a routing algorithm.

As the Applicant understands the IEEE 1394 serial bus, the IEEE 1394 serial bus is intended to mimic a classic "bus" in which a number of nodes share and communicate to one another over the same wiring. Because the same wiring is shared by the nodes, no "path" needs to be determined "from amongst a plurality of possible paths". That is, all nodes hear the communications of every other node on the bus; which, in turn, eliminates the need for determining a particular path.

Moreover, Col. 1, lines 17 – 36 of Iwamura discuss operation of the IEEE 1394 bus. Here it is stated (emphasis added):

A typical serial bus having the IEEE 1394 standard architecture is comprised of a multiplicity of nodes that are interconnected via point-to-point links, such as cables, that each connect a single node of the serial bus to another node of the serial bus. Data packets are propagated throughout the serial bus using a number of point-to-point transactions, wherein a node that receives a packet from another node via a first point-to-point link retransmits the received packet via other point-to-point links. A tree network configuration and associated packet handling protocol ensures that each node receives a packet once.

Because the IEEE 1394 standard is designed to mimic a classic bus in which a packet placed on the bus is transmitted to all nodes on the bus, no path needs to be determined because every node is guaranteed to receive the packet.

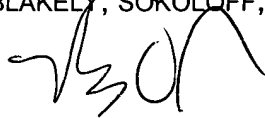
Therefore, Iwamura fails to disclose execution of a routing algorithm; and, as a consequence, independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Iwamura.

Because independent claims 1 and 11 are allowable all claims are allowable.

CONCLUSION

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666. If a telephone interview would in any way expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Thomas Webster at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,
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